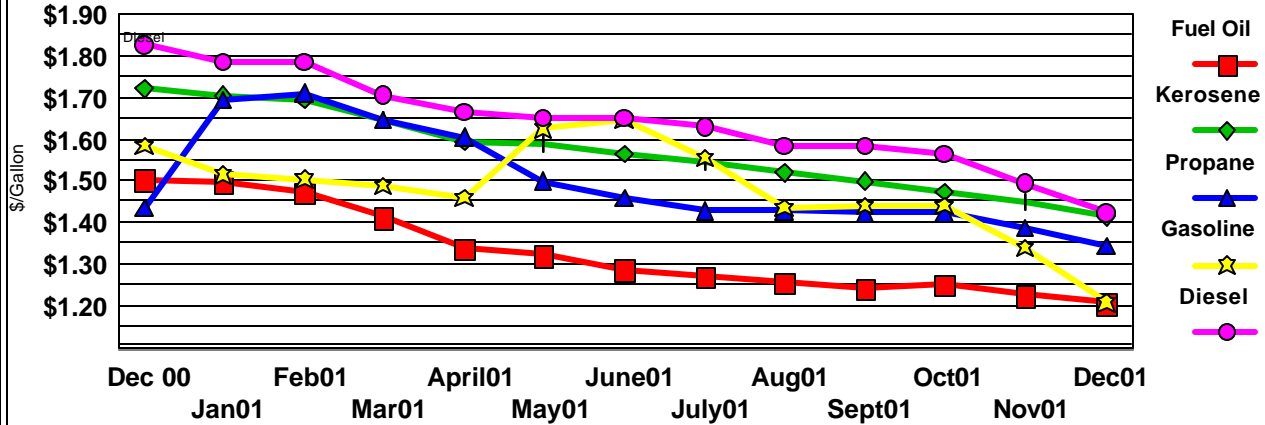


Vermont Fuel Price Report

December 2001

Vermont Picture

One Year Price Trend



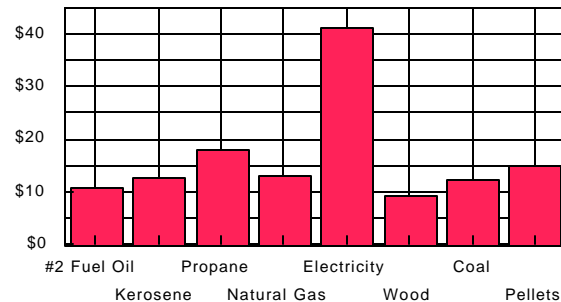
Average Retail Petroleum Prices (per gallon)

	Dec01	Nov01	%change	Dec 00	%change
No. 2 Fuel Oil	\$1.20	\$1.22	-1.6%	\$1.50	-20.0%
Kerosene	\$1.41	\$1.45	-2.5%	\$1.72	-18.0%
Propane	\$1.34	\$1.39	-3.2%	\$1.43	-6.3%
Unleaded Gasoline	\$1.20	\$1.33	-9.9%	\$1.58	-24.0%
Diesel	\$1.42	\$1.49	-5.0%	\$1.83	-22.3%

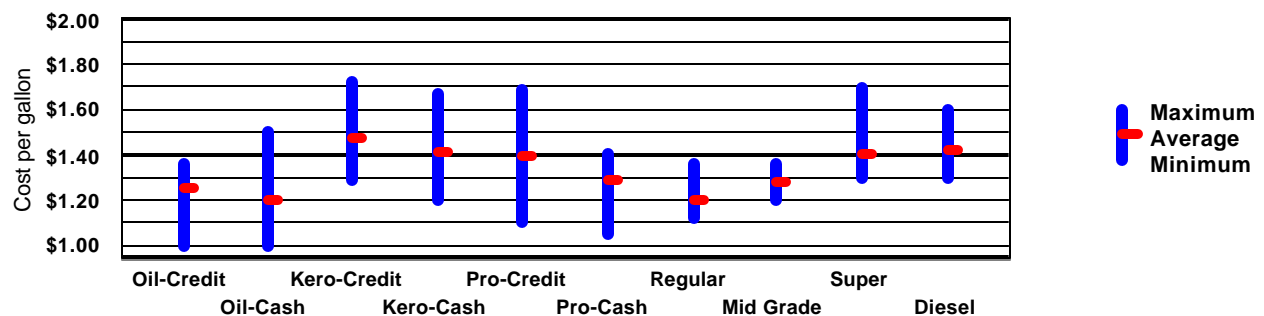
Comparing the Cost of Heating Fuels

Type of Energy	BTU/unit	Adj Effic	\$/unit	\$/MMBtu
Fuel Oil, gallon	138,200	80%	\$1.203	\$10.88
Kerosene, gallon	136,600	80%	\$1.410	\$12.90
Propane, gallon	91,600	80%	\$1.342	\$18.32
Natural Gas, therm	100,000	80%	\$1.050	\$13.13
Electricity, kwh	3,412	100%	\$0.141	\$41.39
Wood, cord	22,000,000	60%	\$125.00	\$9.47
Coal, ton	24,000,000	60%	\$182.00	\$12.64
Pellets, ton	16,000,000	75%	\$181.00	\$15.08

Cost per 1 Million BTU



Fuel Price Ranges in Vermont



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It's a Different Year

Last winter at this time the news media were full of the unseasonably cold weather, the high fuel prices and the low stocks. This year, the weather has been unusually warm and prices are low and still falling. Table 1 shows the difference in temperatures, Table 2 shows the difference in fuel prices, and Table 3 shows what this might mean to a hypothetical average household. Table 3 is full of assumptions, including that an average homes requires roughly 13,500 btu input per HDD, and that October and November account for 85% of HDD between July 1 and December 1.

Table 1

Heating Degree Days at Burlington Weather Station - 12/11/01					
	Observed	Normal	Departure	Last Year	Decrease from 2000
Month to date	267	420	-153	478	44%
Since July 1	1561	2033	-472	2069	25%

Table 2

Comparison of Average Weekly Prices for October through November			
	2001	2000	Decrease
Fuel Oil	\$1.223	\$1.468	17%
Kerosene	\$1.444	\$1.680	14%
Propane	\$1.379	\$1.434	4%

Table 3

Average Heating Cost Comparison			
Year	Fuel Oil	Kerosene	Propane
2000	\$258.13	\$295.37	\$363.19
2001	\$162.30	\$191.63	\$263.52
Change	-37%	-35%	-27%

These tables demonstrate the relation between price, usage, and final cost. As of December 12, the near term weather is forecast to remain warmer than average and the prices of crude oil and refined products remain on a downward trend. This could all change very quickly given market volatility and the world political scene. It is still a good idea to tune your system and tighten up your house.

Natural Gas Price Adjustment

The price for natural gas shown in the Comparison Table on Page 1 has been adjusted to reflect Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) most recent rate adjustment. The residential tariff includes a price of \$0.9280 per hundred cubic feet of gas and the fixed daily charge of \$0.3249. Heating usage is 71% of the average customer's consumption, according to VGS filings with the Department. This percentage of the total yearly fee was added to a cost of the average residential heating consumption to develop a per unit charge for comparison to other fuels costs.

NOTE: The *Vermont Fuel Price Report* is published monthly by the Vermont Department of Public Service. Prices are collected on or about the first Monday of each month and, unless otherwise indicated, reflect dealer discounts for cash or self-service. For more information, please contact: Tom Franks at 1-800-642-3281 or (802) 828-4035. E-mail: franks@psd.state.vt.us.